Biting policy

At Rising Stars, we always follow a positive behaviour policy to promote positive behaviour. However, we understand that children may use certain behaviours such as biting as part of their development. Biting is a common behaviour that some young children go through and can be triggered when they do not yet have the words to communicate their anger, frustration or need.

Our procedures

The setting uses the following strategies to prevent biting: sensory activities, biting rings, adequate resources and staff who recognise when children need more stimulation or quiet times. However, in the event of a child being bitten we use the following procedures. The most relevant staff member(s) will:

- Comfort any child who has been bitten and check for any visual injury. Administer any first aid where necessary. Complete an incident form/accident form and inform the parents via telephone if deemed appropriate. Continue to observe the bitten area for signs of infection. For confidentiality purposes and possible conflict, we do not disclose the name of the child who has caused the bite to the parents.
- Tell the child who has caused the bite, in terms that they understand, that teeth are not for biting. The child will be encouraged to develop their empathy skills by giving the child who has been bitten a hug or comforter.
- Complete an incident form to share with the parents at the end of the child's session.
- If a child continues to bite ensure you communicate with the parents and put strategies into place (e.g an ABC chart.) Parents will be reassured that it is part of a child's development and not made to feel that it is their fault
- In the event of a bite breaking the skin and to reduce the risk of infection from bacteria, give prompt treatment to both the child who has bitten and the child who had been bitten.

If a child or member of staff sustains a bite wound where the skin has been severely broken arrange for urgent medical attention after initial first aid has been carried out.